



Arlington Disability Commission Minutes

Date: Wednesday, September 16, 2020

Time: 4:00 pm

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Attendees: Commissioners Cynthia DeAngelis (Chair), Darcy Devney, Karen Mathiasen, Paul Parravano, Michael Rademacher (Public Works Director), Kerrie Fallon, Paul Raia, Liza Molina

Absent: Maureen St. Hilaire (Vice Chair)

Guests: Jillian Harvey (DEI Coordinator), Grace Carpenter (Volunteer), Ellen Leigh (Volunteer/Advocate), Don Seltzer (resident), Susan Ann Kehler, Daniel Amstutz (Senior Transportation Planner)

Minutes

Meeting called to order at 4:12pm by Jillian Harvey.

1. Call to Order- Read Ground Rules, Welcome members and guests
2. Approve August Minutes
 - a. Parravano motioned to approve minutes, Raia seconded, all in favor.
3. Check-Ins
4. New Business
 - a. HP Relocation in Arlington Heights
 - i. Daniel Amstutz discussed Arlington Heights Parklet at 1346-1360 Mass Ave, seating area in the parking lane, mostly used by Roasted Granola. There are complaints coming from neighbors about loss of business due to parklet use in front of their store. Proposed solution is to move parklet eastward to cover the current handicap space at 1346 Mass Ave and reduce from 4 spaces to 3 (in length). The handicap parking space would temporarily (until 11/15/2020) relocate to 1360 Mass Ave- closer to the crosswalk with temporary signage.

- ii. Raia asked if there is a ramp where the sidewalk is yes there is which is actually a bit better than the current HP space. Raia asked if there are obstructions on passenger side- there is a light post which raises some concerns. Devney points out the HP space directly across the street, moving this space makes sense actually
- iii. Rademacher motioned to temporarily move HP space eastward of crosswalk, only if it can be done without light pole obstruction, Devney seconded, all in favor.

b. Lexington Hotel Letter Review

- i. Everyone has reviewed the final draft of the letter provided by Devney and DeAngelis. Fallon has a question about clarity around Commission's role and authority. Discuss that current cycle of Commission not being involved in early stages, needs to change. Don Seltzer suggests that 13th provision should be added to Redevelopment Board, that includes Disability Commission review and group should consider warrant for spring Town Meeting. Parravano moved to approve sending the final draft of the letter, Devney seconds that we send, all in favor.

c. Municipal ADA Improvement Grant Program

- i. Devney feels Town Hall is highest priority, Robbins might have more visitors, however the Town Hall is the most important. The lift in the Robbins community room is also important, but inclusionary barriers like bathrooms are more important in Town Hall. Leigh agrees.
- ii. Parravano feels Town Hall is vital, but the Robbins Library is also an immense resource for so many and needs improvements.
- iii. Raia also could not decide between the two, but as Town Hall is the center of the government, but the Robbins serves more people. We could particularly help to better serve children with disabilities.
- iv. Rademacher likes Town Hall as choice, as it's used by many, since exterior is undergoing improvements, so might be nice to compliment it with interior improvements
- v. DeAngelis feels Town Hall might be best
- vi. Fallon thinks we should have a really accessible Town Hall, but also Library is just as important as it really serves adults and children,
- vii. Rademacher motioned to select a project that focuses on Bathroom improvements to Robbins Library and Town Hall, if leftover we pick another element (lifts, signage, elevators) Parravano seconded, all in favor. Civic Block – makes it sound more cohesive, restrooms and wheelchair accessibility and hearing impaired.

- d. Automatic Traffic Signals
 - i. Leigh: Coordinated signal time would improve accessibility and traffic safety, and some better pedestrian compliance and generally more sanitary.
 - ii. Parravano: we should find out how many are and are not automatic pedestrian signals
 - iii. Rademacher: when Covid-19 began a number of signals on Mass Ave and Broadway were changed, so that buttons do not need to be touched due to Covid transmission uncertainty. Recently traffic and queuing increased as a result, and less concern for surface transmission of Covid has changed the use from automatic. Pedestrian cycle with no pedestrians yields more road rage, but audible signal is essential.
 - iv. Commission will continue the discussion next time, Leigh will send more info about this topic.
- e. Facebook Banner Photo
 - i. DeAngelis thinks we could run our banner, Nothing About US Without Us, or group photo of the commission, or a quote.
- 5. Budget Update & Planning
 - a. SiteImprove
 - i. DeAngelis feels commission is committed to having website compliant, and it's our duty to assist. Raia motioned to support the request for \$7,000, Fallon seconded, all in favor.
 - b. IHCD review AHS Building
 - i. Limited opportunity to make changes, level of trying to influence final decision; IHCD can still tinker with plans. Sad experience of seeing brand new buildings with basic compliance problems.
 - ii. IHCD can look at plans, and point out noncompliant or missed opportunities; impulse to hide elevators. Address concerns of commission, come up with a more informed set of concerns for the client are architectural team
 - iii. Since town is existing/previous client, offer \$150/hour for plan review, do a markup of the CDs-construction docs, certain subset of pages of construction docs, they will make a pdf markup, easy way to point out things that are problematic; kickoff meeting with Disability Commission to share their process.
 - iv. Estimate it may take 30 hours, so that is a total \$4,500.
Commission feels it is best to move forward with this. We should give her the plans, and get better estimate, then have her come to present to the group. Rademacher will ask Town Manager or Planning Director how to get AHS plans. Raia will be point person

for this. Get plans, Raia and Valerie to meet set that up once have plans, and more info

6. Committee Updates (20 min)- tabled
7. DEI Updates (5 min)- tabled
8. Training Recap & Retreat Discussion (35 min)- tabled
 - a. 5 Key takeaways from Town Counsel's training
 - b. Key components for retreat
9. Priorities for next meeting's agenda (5 min)
 - a. Automatic traffic signals
 - b. Warrant idea to include commission by process
 - c. Recap of training

Meeting adjourns at 6:27 pm

Commission members not able to attend please email both Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us and Cynthia DeAngelis prior to the scheduled meeting.

Anyone needing accessibility information or other assistance in order to attend this meeting should contact Jillian Harvey, jharvey@town.arlington.ma.us. This meeting is open to all interested individuals.